

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 ACDA-07 OES-07 USIE-00
ERDA-05 MC-02 NRC-05 INT-05 IO-13 AID-05 IGA-02
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00
INRE-00 ERDE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-07 FEAE-00
(ISO) W

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O P 131317Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4676

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 9924

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MNUC, TECH

SUBJECT: INDIAN NUCLEAR POLICY

1. ON LOK SABHA DISCUSSION JULY 13 TRIGGERED BY SHORT NOTICE QUESTION ON SUPPLY OF ENRICHED URANIUM TO TARAPUR, PRIME MINISTER DESAI WENT FURTHER THAN HE HAS BEFORE IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSION ISSUE BY DECLARING IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION THAT HE HAD COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT NO NUCLEAR EXPLOSION IS NECESSARY FOR PEACEFUL PRUPOSES. CHALLENGED ON THIS BY OPPOSITION LEADER CHANVA, DESAI RE-TREATED SOMEWHAT, STATING THAT HE WOULD NOT MAKE THIS COMMITMENT FOR ALL FUTURE TIME. IN DOING SO, HE REITERATED EARLIER LINE THAT IF EXPLOSION WAS PROVED NECESSARY THEN HE WOULD CONSULT WITH OTHERS BEFORE PROCEEDING. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF BRINGING OTHERS TO SHARE CONCLUSION THAT EXPLOSION WAS NECESSARY, IF SUCH CONCLUSION EVER REACHED. BUT LATER IN COURSE OF HALF HOUR DISCUSSION, WHEN ASKED WHETHER THE US HAD BEEN SEEKING SINCE 1974 TO RE-WRITE THE AGREEMENT FOR FUEL SUPPLY TO TARAPUR BECAUSE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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1974 PNE HAD BEEN MISUNDERSTOOD, DESAI REPLIED THAT THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF ANY MORE EXPLOSION FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES. THIS HAD BEEN "CLEARED IN OUR (INDO-US) TALKS" DESAI SAID.

2. IN ANSWER TO SPECIFIC QUESTION WHICH HAD PROMPTED DISCUSSION--WHETHER USG HAD AGREED TO RESUME TARAPUR FUELD SUPPLY AND IF SO, UNDER WHAT CONDITION--DESAI GAVE VERY BRIEF REPLY.

HE STATED THAT SUPPLY HAD BEEN RESUMED AND THAT WHILE THERE HAD BEEN NO PRE-CONDITION AS SUCH, THERE HAD BEEN AN UNDERSTANDING" THAT DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE HELD BETWEEN US AND INDIA ON THE LARGER QUESTION OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION.

3. WHEN, DESPITE THIS STATEMENT, DESAI WAS ASKED IF THERE HAD BEEN ANY CONDITION THAT INDIA WOULD OPEN ITS NUCLEAR FACILITIES FOR INTERNATIONAL INSPECTION, DESAI DECLARED THAT THERE WAS NO SUCH CONDITION. HE ADDED THAT IF THERE IS SUCH A CONDITION, HE WILL NEVER AGREE TO IT. WHEN A MEMBER SUBSEQUENTLY CLAIMED THAT DESAI HAD EARLIER AGREED TO INTERNATIONAL INSPECTION, DESAI DENIED HE HAD EVERY SAID SUCH A THING. HE ASKED AMID CHEERS WHY HE SHOULD GIVE SUCH AN UNDERTAKING WHEN "THEY" DO NOT ALLOW HIM TO INSPECT THEIR INSTALLATIONS.

4. ASKED WHETHER US WAS EXERTING PRESSURE ON INDIA TO "TOE THEIR LINE" AND SIGN THE NPT, DESAI SAID HE HAD STATED THAT UNLESS THOSE WHO POSSESSED ATOMIC WEAPONS AND WENT ON WITH EXPLOSIONS GAVE THEM UP, GOI COULD NOT SIGN TREATY.

5. FOREGOING BASED ON SAMACHAR ACCOUNT ANDREPORT OF EMBOFF WHO ATTENDED DEBATE BUT, UNDER PARLIAMENTARY RULES, WAS NOT ABLE TO TAKE NOTES. GIVEN IMPORTANCE OF SUBJECT, WE INTEND TO SEND IN SUPPLEMENTARY MESSAGE WHEN WE GET FULL TEXT OF DEBATE, PROBABLY TOMORROW.
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GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 13-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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